

Public Health & Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Health & Safety Committee (PH&S) was held on January 25, 2010, in room 213 of Town Hall.

Members present: Carolyn Schoonmaker, Chair; James Patrick, Vice Chair; Barry Baldwin; Michael Burke; James Cameron; Shelley Carder; Dr. Robert C. George; Mary Guimond, Clerk; Sue Maguire; Donna Melz; James Patrick; and Jennifer Sommer.

Members absent: Susan LeHan, who arrived after the first vote

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 pm. Minutes of the November 23, 2009, meeting as well as minutes of the January 21, 2010, meeting were approved without change.

Discussion turned to Resolution #10-3, a Police non-emergency interagency agreement, with Chair Schoonmaker circulating an email she had received from Chief Lovello responding to questions members had posed during the January 21st meeting. In addition, the email explained that Chief Lovello had reached out to the Police Chiefs Association to ask about any liability issues these agreements may have generated. There were none. After brief discussion, all members agreed that PH&S would like to see an update on the status of this agreement in one year instead of in five years as the agreement states. With this change agreed upon, the committee voted unanimously (Ms. LeHan had not yet arrived) to support the resolution.

Discussion on Resolution #10-4, tax abatement for handicapped-adapted vehicles, included a statement from Mr. Patrick that he had spoken with the Chair of F&B to quantify how many vehicles and how much money the town would be abating. Mr. Patrick said that two vehicles and between \$500 and \$1000 would be involved. Mr. Cameron moved to vote on this resolution and it passed unanimously (including Ms. LeHan).

Chair Schoonmaker advised that Resolution #10-5 had not been assigned to PH&S and therefore withdrew discussion on it. Chair Schoonmaker then reviewed the statements she would be making to the RTM related to Resolutions #10-1, #10-2, #10-3, and #10-4 and gained approval from all members.

Ms. Sommer asked about other issues PH&S may be involved in this year and mentioned two that we may consider. The first was with regard to abuses of the anonymous tipline instituted a number of years ago. Members felt this was a Police Commission issue. The second was with regard to the safety of the walkway under the railroad tracks at the Post Road during construction. Ms. Guimond mentioned that the Advisory Board of Health, a committee upon which she is a member that advises the Selectmen, had raised pedestrian safety as an important issue and was in the process of obtaining data to support the need for a program. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted on January 26, 2010 by Mary Guimond, Clerk